

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-22. Please add new Claims 33-54.

1.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn) A multi-spectral light source comprising:
a hollow vessel with a first end and a second end;
a first valve located at the first end;
a second valve located at the second end;
an electrode located at each end; and
a pump for pumping a gas into and out of the vessel.

24. (Withdrawn) The light source of Claim 23, wherein the vessel is a tube.

25. (Withdrawn) The light source of Claim 23, wherein the gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen.

26. (Withdrawn) The light source of Claim 24, wherein the tube is a straight tube.

27. (Withdrawn) The light source of Claim 24, wherein the tube is a serpentine-shaped tube.

28. (Withdrawn) The light source of Claim 24, wherein the tube is a plurality of serially connected individual straight tubes.

29. (Withdrawn) The light source of Claim 24, wherein the tube is a rectangular-shaped planar tube.

30. (Withdrawn) The light source of Claim 24, wherein the tube is a spiral-shaped tube.

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31. (Withdrawn) The light source of Claim 24, wherein the tube is a ring-shaped tube.

32. (Withdrawn) The light source of Claim 24 wherein the tube is a channel-shaped tube.

33. (New) A method of exchanging gases in a light source comprising:
providing a hollow tube having a first end with a first endcap and a second end with a second endcap, an inlet valve and a first electrode associated with the first end and an outlet valve and a second electrode associated with the second end;

opening the inlet and outlet valves to provide for a simultaneous exchange of gases between said first electrode and said second electrode;

removing a first gas from between said first and second electrodes out of the light source through the outlet valve, and simultaneously providing a second gas through the inlet valve into between said first and second electrodes, said first gas being different from said second gas; and

closing the inlet and outlet valves.

34. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the first gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen.

35. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the second gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen.

36. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the first gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen; and the second gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen.

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37. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the inlet and outlet valves include seals to prevent gas from leaking past or through the valves from the tube.

38. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the hollow tube comprises a straight hollow tube shape.

39. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the hollow tube comprises a serpentine shaped hollow tube.

40. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the light source comprises a lamp array of serially connected light sources.

41. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the hollow tube comprises a rectangular planar shaped hollow tube.

42. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the hollow tube comprises a spiral shaped hollow tube.

43. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the hollow tube comprises a ring shaped hollow tube.

44. (New) The method of Claim 33, wherein the hollow tube comprises a channel shaped hollow tube.

45. (New) A method of exchanging gases in a light source comprising:
opening a first valve of the light source, and opening a second valve of the light source to allow a gas to substantially simultaneously flow through said first and second valves;
pumping a first gas initially located within the light source out of the light source while pumping a second gas into the light source, said second gas being different from said first gas; and
closing each valve of the light source.

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46. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the first gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen; and the second gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen.

47. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the light source is a straight light source.

48. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the light source is a serpentine light source.

49. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the light source is a lamp array of serially connected light sources.

50. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the light source is a rectangular planar light source.

51. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the light source is a spiral light source.

52. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the light source is a ring light source.

53. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the light source is a channel light source.

54. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the valves are open/close valves.

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